



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

1991

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Honorable Jesse A. Helms
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Helms:

Thank you for your transmittal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of a letter dated March 11, 1991 from one of your constituents, Ms. Faye S. Brittain, concerning her mother's underground storage tank (UST) problem. Apparently, while conducting soil borings to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of soil contamination in the area of some USTs recently being removed from operation at her site, some contamination was discovered at the opposite side of her lot where they were planning to locate some new tanks. She wanted to know whether they might be forced to remove some of this soil that might have been contaminated over forty or fifty years ago where an aging tank was removed over thirty-six years ago.

Our reading of her letter suggests there may already be a leak from the operating USTs, and they are trying to characterize and deal with this problem. Thus, they are probably already in contact with the State UST regulatory program about this site. We recommend that Ms. Brittain and her mother continue to openly discuss this evolving situation with the responsible State program officials. It is basically the State's decision as to whether or not the soil in the area of the old release must be removed. In North Carolina, the UST program can be contacted at:

Division of Environmental Management
Ground-Water Operations Branch
Department of Natural Resources and
Community Development
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687
919-733-3221

I hope the above information satisfactorily addresses the concerns raised by your constituent. please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

David W. Ziegele, Acting Director
Office of Underground storage Tanks